

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 166**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 147**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 166—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 2, 2014.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

##### **ACR 166, Atkins. Dropout Recovery Week**

This measure would declare the week of August 4, 2014, to August 10, 2014, inclusive, as Dropout Recovery Week, and would state that the Legislature intends to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources.

WHEREAS, The America's Promise Alliance found, in 2014, that pupils drop out of high school because they are overwhelmed by the effects of toxic living conditions such as homelessness, violent surroundings, abuse or neglect, and catastrophic family health events; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 Building a GradNation Report found that the nation cannot achieve its graduation goals without increasing California's graduation rate for Latino and African American pupils and without providing more investment for dropout recovery; and

WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education concludes that if only one-half of the dropouts from a single year were to earn a diploma, the economic benefits to California would include an additional \$1.4 billion in earnings annually for the reengaged pupils and an annual increase in state and local tax revenues of \$167 million; and

WHEREAS, Research further shows that reengaged learners demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement, contribute to the cultural strength of their communities, and are significantly less likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a violent crime; and

WHEREAS, Research by WestEd demonstrates the challenges faced by schools seeking to reengage dropouts in that one-half of the dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less, one-third of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course after they reenroll, and as few as 18 percent of returning dropouts graduate; and

WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools in California are operating under Section 52052.3 of the Education Code in partnership with the Workforce Investment Act, the California Conservation Corps, and other federal and state career technical education partners to provide significant social, economic, and academic benefits for their pupils and for California's population as a whole; and

WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools utilize multiple strategies, including accelerated learning pedagogies, competency-based instruction, and open entry-open exit enrollment; and

WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools attract and retain high-quality staff committed to transforming their pupils from being at risk of failure to being at promise of success; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares the week of August 4, 2014, to August 10, 2014, inclusive, as Dropout Recovery Week, in honor of the schools and staff who work to reengage pupils who have previously dropped out of school, and in honor of the pupils who overcome significantly personal challenges to reengage in high school and become transformed learners in preparation for college and a future career; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature intends to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.